

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278755

FOLLOWING REPEAT LIBREVILLE 1582 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
MONROVIA PARIS, DECEMBER 18TH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, GB

SUBJ: MYSTERIOUS AMERICAN PLANE AT LIBREVILLE AIRPORT

1. ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 20, PIPER CHEROKEE AIRPLANE
REGISTERED IN U.S., SERIAL NUMBER N8983N, LANDED AT
LIBREVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMING FROM FRANCE VIA
ROBERT'S FIELD. PLANE'S LANDING UNEXPECTED AND UNAUTHORIZED
AND, IN ADDITION, WAS IN EVENING WHEN SMALL PLANES FORBIDDEN
TO LAND. ACCORDING TO POLICE AND AIRPORT SOURCES, PILOT
WAS APPARENTLY AMERICAN CITIZEN AND DID NOT HAVE VISA. PILOT,
WHO HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE, APPARENTLY LEFT ON AFFRETAIR
FLIGHT. CHEROKEE, WHICH IS IN GOOD CONDITION AND OUTFITTED
WITH EXTRA FUEL TANKS FOR LONGRANGE FLIGHT, REMAINS AT AIRPORT.

2. EMBASSY WAS ALERTED TO STORY ABOUT TEN DAYS AFTER PLANE'S
LANDING BY PEOPLE WORKING AT AIRPORT. WE DISCREETLY CONTACTED
POLICE TO DETERMINE IF PILOT HAD BEEN ARRESTED. POLICE INFORMED
EMBASSY THEY WERE AWARE OF INCIDENT AND THAT PILOT NOT IN
COUNTRY. POLICE DESIRE TO TALK TO PILOT ABOUT HIS ILLEGAL ARRIVAL,
LANDING AND DEPARTURE, AND NONPAYMENT OF AIRPORT FEES. POLICE
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ALSO HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE SUBJECT PLANE MAY BE INTENDED

FOR RESALE OR DELIVERY IN RHODESIA OR SOUTH AFRICA. DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF ITS PRESENCE AT AIRPORT, PLANE WAS UNDER CONSTANT POLICE SURVEILLANCE. IT HAS SINCE BEEN BLOCKED TO PREVENT ITS UNAUTHORIZED TAKEOFF, AND AUTHORITIES AND WORKERS AT AIRPORT HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM POLICE SHOULD PILOT RETURN, WHICH POLICE FULLY EXPECT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ADDRESSEES ON THIS PLANE, ITS PILOT (ESPECIALLY WHETHER HE IS AMERICAN CITIZEN), PURPOSE OF VOYAGE AND PROPOSED DESTINATION OR DISPOSAL OF PLANE.

MCKESSON

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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